

# Land Acknowledgment:

Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth. This practice of acknowledging the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of that land, adopted widely, exposes us to the names of the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of the lands we are on, inspiring us to ongoing awareness and action.

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hopes of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and reconciliation are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. The Native communities in Portland number over 70,000 strong and are descended from over 380 tribes. We are gathering on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and more who may call this place home. We pay respects to their elders past, present, and future. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

After the acknowledgment, we should commit to always transitioning to current action connected to Native communities, Native leaders, activists, or to in some way actively center their perspective and contribution to the community today, to move past the check box type thing.

This land acknowledgement text is adapted from recommendations found in the USDAC guidebook on honoring native land and with resources shared by NAYA.

<https://usdac.us/nativeland> & <https://www.up.edu/activities/files/leading-with-tradition.pdf>

A land acknowledgement evolves as our own understandings of our work in solidarity to Indigenous struggle grows. We should seek to learn about the history of the legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that are particular to our place. We should use the names of the Nations that were the original people of the very land area we occupy. We should seek to make the acknowledgment personal.